

16 January 2014

Ms Julie Steel
Executive Director
Supreme, District and Land Courts Service
QEII Courts of Law Complex
PO Box 15167
City East Qld 4002

By Post and Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Executive Director

Lack of soundproofing in the new Supreme and District Court cells interview rooms

We write in regard to the lack of soundproofing in the new Supreme and District Court cells interview rooms. While these concerns were raised at the Court Users Reference Group, the Society thought it important to formalise our concerns in writing.

Members have reported that sensitive conversations conducted in interview rooms that would attract legal professional privilege are capable of being overheard by other parties in other interview rooms. The requirement for the absolute confidentiality of client-lawyer communications is paramount. Lack of appropriately sound proofed interview rooms at the courts prevents client discussions from being free and frank. Should the situation not be remedied it is foreseeable that practitioners will be unable to conduct conferences with clients.

The Society respectfully requests the court to consider taking such steps as are required to remedy the lack of sound proofing as a matter of priority and suggest that some remedial work be done to ensure that interview rooms are adequately soundproofed.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please contact our Policy Solicitor, Ms Raylene D'Cruz on [REDACTED]; or Senior Policy Solicitor, Ms Binari De Saram on [REDACTED] for further inquiries.

We look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Ian Brown
President